

Subject: Coins found in lumps of coal

Stealey, James Nevelle

1921

[Clarksburg, W.V.]

SECRETARY'S OFFICE

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1921

Referred by The
Metropolitan Mu-
seum of Art to
The American Nu-
ismatic Society

612
Milford St.

Clarksburg W. Va.
Oct 20 1921

Metropolitan Museum, -

My father, Jos. E
Stealey is a Coal Operator.
Last summer while I was
helping one of the drivers
pound up some coal, I
noticed one lump was
more spherical in shape
than the others. This I
picked up and examined.

I threw it down and when it struck, it made a metallic sound. I then put the lump in my pocket and, after arriving home, pounded it with a hammer and, after some work, found it contained an old copper coin. My Mother helped to clean the coin. It is in a perfect state of preservation. We think the ~~coal~~ was formed around it. The date is 1330.

Strange as it may seem, the next day the same thing happened again except that the coin is silver and dated 1329. I am sending you a picture.

The vein of coal they are digging is over 100 feet from the surface. How could the coins possibly have gotten there? They were 163 years old when Columbus discovered America and 290 years old when slaves

were first sold in Jamestown.

I have received several letters asking me to sell them. I do not know their value. I think they are Egyptian. I am fourteen years old and have been collecting stamps and coins for quite a while.

Please let me hear from you. Perhaps you can tell by the enclosed just what they are. Respectfully
Joe. Neville Stealey.

Last coin found
silver.



First coin found.
Copper.

October 26th, 1921

Mr. James Nevelle Stealey
612 Milford Street
Clarksburg, W.Va.

Dear Sir:

We are puzzled concerning the two coins you found in lumps of coal because these coins were struck ten or eleven years ago, respectively. The coins were struck at the French Mint for Morocco, and the dates 1329 and 1330 are of the Mahammedan era and correspond with the years 1910 and 1911. We are perfectly familiar with these coins so there is no doubt at all that they are modern pieces. The question is - how did they get in the coal?

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW/E